

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An oil-based formulation for desensitizing skin and hair follicles comprising:

- a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;
- a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;
- homopolymers;
- copolymers; and
- plant extract oils;

wherein the formulation is free of water.

2. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, further comprising a thickener.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said topical anesthetic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, and procaine.

5. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said topical anesthetic is benzocaine.

6. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said solubilizer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl molonate, dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, and diethyl isosuccinate.

7. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 6, wherein said solubilizer is diethyl sebacate or diethyl adipate.

8. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said homopolymer is either polyethylene glycol or polypropylene glycol.

9. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone-hexadecene.

10. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said plant extract oils comprise one or more members of a group consisting of tea tree oil, ~~yling-yling~~ ylang-ylang oil, tangerine oil, chamomile oil, jasmine oil, Egyptian musk oil, sandalwood oil, coconut oil, and peppermint oil.

11. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils provide fragrant properties to said oil-based formulation.

12. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 2, wherein said thickener is ~~white petroleum~~ polyvinylpyrrolidone-hexadecene.

13. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer has a chain length in the range of about 400 to about 1000.

14. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer has a molecular weight in the range of about 5000 amu to about 10,000 amu.

15. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer is present in a range of about 7 to about 10 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

16. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer is present in a range of about 20 to about 25 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

17. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils are present in a range of about 11 to about 15 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

18. (Previously Presented) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said solubilizer is present in a range of about 30 to about 40 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A method of desensitizing the scalp prior to a hair treatment, comprising:

applying an oil-based composition to the scalp prior to applying the hair treatment;

and

allowing the composition to remain on the scalp enough time to desensitize the treated area,

wherein the composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic, a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic, at least one polymer, and at least one plant extract oil, and wherein the composition is substantially free of water.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the topical anesthetic is a chemical selected from a caine family of chemicals.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, ~~wherein said~~ wherein said topical anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, procaine, and combinations thereof, and said solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl molonate,

dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, diethyl isosuccinate, and combinations thereof.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Newly Added) An oil-based formulation for desensitizing skin and hair follicles comprising:

- a therapeutically effective amount of at least one crystalline form of a topical anesthetic;

- a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;

- a hydrophilic homopolymer to aid in re-crystallization suppression of the crystalline topical anesthetic; and

- a hydrophilic copolymer to aid in suspension stabilization of the crystalline topical anesthetic.

30. (Newly Added) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said crystalline topical anesthetic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, and prolocaine.

31. (Newly Added) A method of desensitizing a hairy area of the scalp using an oil-based composition, said method comprising:

- applying the oil-based composition directly to the scalp prior to applying a hair treatment;

- permitting said composition to remain on the hairy area of the scalp thereby desensitizing the hair area of the scalp; and

- wherein said composition comprises at least one therapeutically effective amount of a crystalline topical anesthetic, a solubilizer for solubilizing the crystalline topical anesthetic, at least one hydrophilic homopolymer, and at least one hydrophilic copolymer.

32. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 31, further comprising performing a hair treatment procedure to the hairy area of the scalp after the composition is applied to the hairy area of the scalp.

33. (Newly Added) The method according to claim 31, wherein said topical anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, prolocaine, and combinations thereof, and said solubilizer is selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl molonate, dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, diethyl isosuccinate, and combinations thereof.